

## L. & C. TRAIN PULLS OUT ON SCHEDULE

First Time in Twenty-nine  
Months Train Has Made  
Trip to Chester.

### ON REGULAR SCHEDULE

First Train Left Lancaster  
Yesterday Morning at Nine  
O'clock and Returned at  
Three P. M.

For the first time in twenty-nine months, or since the fifteenth day of July, 1916, when the steel bridge spanning the Catawba between Lancaster and Chester was taken away in the great flood which swept portions of North and South Carolina, the Lancaster and Chester Railway company ran a through passenger and freight train yesterday morning. The train left the L. & C. depot at nine o'clock and arrived Chester at eleven. There were several cars of freight and one passenger coach making up the train, and several passengers made the initial trip. There was no demonstration at the station, though the opening of the line, after being bottled up so long, means so much to the business interests of Lancaster that a crowd of people should have been on hand to welcome the inauguration of a regular service.

The train pulled out unceremoniously enough. Conductor W. T. Gladden merely yelling "B-o-a-r-d," and with the ringing of the bell Engineer J. A. Stewman pulled the throttle, the wheels began to turn and the train was soon around the curve and out of sight. General Manager A. P. McLure was one of the passengers, he going over to the new bridge, just completed, to see that all details of the work were carried out.

The schedule in effect this week embodies but one train each way a day. Leaving Lancaster at 9 a. m., the train reaches Chester at 11 a. m.; returning, leave Chester 1 p. m., arrive Lancaster 3 p. m. Effective Wednesday, January 1, the train will leave Lancaster at 7 a. m., arrive Chester 9 a. m.; returning, leave Chester 11 a. m., arrive Lancaster 1 p. m. This will afford connections with important trains at Chester for Columbia and Atlanta. No announcement has been made as to a double daily service, such as was in effect before the flood, but it is assumed that this will be inaugurated as soon as conditions will permit.

## MAY RESCUE CHARLOTTE FROM ITS CAMP TROUBLES

War Department Seems Inclined to  
Relieve Business Men of Obligations of Leases.

Washington, Dec. 23.—It seems that Charlotte is about to get rid of the last of its troubles with Camp Greene. The war department now seems inclined to take up a number of land leases held by the chamber of commerce which of course will relieve the business men of the city of about \$20,000 in obligations for the year 1919.

President P. C. Whitlock, of the chamber of commerce, advised Senator Overman that Charlotte business men held the leases on land upon which Camp Greene is situated and the leases are so drawn that the chamber would be obligated for the entire year if the camp were used even a week during 1919. He suggested the war department should assume the leases since Charlotte had been giving the land rent free to the government and the present status of the camp would make it possible to collect \$20,000 in rents from Charlotte citizens.

Senator Overman was advised that a special board had investigated the matter and recommended to the general staff that the leases be assumed by the government for such time as it intends to use Camp Greene. If the staff approves the suggestion, and it probably will, details will be worked out between Generals Goethals and Jervey, and the Charlotte chamber of commerce.

## "See, He Left a Airplane, Too!"



## AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS JIM WILCOX PARDONED

Alleged Slayer of Nellie Cropsey  
Given Freedom—He Now  
Denies Crime.

Raleigh, Dec. 23.—Governor Bickett Friday pardoned Jim Wilcox, serving 30 years for the murder of Nell Cropsey, of Elizabeth City, and the former electrician at the state prison is free after a career of more interest than any prisoner who has served, and he ends it with the finest record ever made. In 15 years he has not won a black mark.

Governor Bickett has not announced his reasons beyond these, but he evidently is moved by the tender appeal of Wilcox for mercy. He had previously declined the prisoner's request, as had Governor Craig. This week Wilcox writes a letter declaring his entire innocence and ignorance of the Cropsey murder, and confessing the strength of circumstances against him, begs for mercy as his health and spirit have failed. Incidentally, Wilcox makes his first statement. He never had denied or confessed it. That alone has stood in the way of his pardon. Governor Craig had gathered the opinion that he was cruelly indifferent, the testimony had shown that

## AFTER THE CROPSEY-WILCOX QUARREL AND THE GIRL FAILED TO RETURN HOME, WILCOX WHEN ASKED BY THE DISTRAUGHT FATHER OF MISS CROPSEY IF HE KNEW WHERE SHE WAS AND WHERE HE LAST SAW HER, DECLARED HE LEFT HER AT CERTAIN PLACE, THEN "TURNED OVER AND WENT TO SLEEP."

### 7,623 CASUALTIES IN THE 30TH DIVISION

Washington, Dec. 19.—General Pershing has cabled the war department that practically complete reports of deaths in action among the expeditionary forces should reach the department by December 20 and of severely wounded by December 27.

General Pershing said that the number of unreported casualties in process of verification at the central records office of the expeditionary forces on December 14 was 40,440. They were divided as follows: Killed in action, 390; died of wounds, 275; died of disease, 353; accidentally killed, 51; severely wounded in action, 39,371. These include all "suspense cases under investigation," the general said.

Total casualties to November 23 in the 30th (Wildcat) division, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee national guard, were given as 7,623. The casualties were classified as follows: Killed in action, 1,168; died of wounds, 283; died of disease 15; died of other causes, 5; severely wounded, 1,181; wounded, degree undetermined, 805; slightly wounded, 3,303; missing or captured, 193.

the girl failed to return home, Wilcox when asked by the distraught father of Miss Cropsey if he knew where she was and where he last saw her, declared he left her at certain place, then "turned over and went to sleep."

On the first trial in Pasquotank Wilcox was convicted of murder by the first degree and sentenced to be hanged. The mob spirit was so all pervasive that it broke out in cheer, and Wilcox got a new trial. Tried in an adjoining county he was found guilty of murder in the second degree and given the limit. Judge G. W. Ward prosecuted him and Judge W. M. Bond and E. A. Aydtlett defended.

### The Casualty Lists.

Casualty lists during the past few days have carried the following names:

- Wounded severely—  
Sgt. Fred B. Horton, Kershaw.  
Pt. Samuel B. Allen, Matthews, N. C.  
Pt. George W. Bowers, Kershaw.  
Pt. T. O. Simpson, Lancaster.  
Pt. John Heath, Waxhaw, N. C.
- Wounded slightly—  
Machanic M. M. Funderburk, Pageland.  
John E. Haywood, Monroe, N. C.  
Wounded degree undetermined—  
Clyde B. Kimbrell, Fort Mill.

## MAY REWARD ALL THE DRAFT BOARDS

Suggestion Made to Joint Committees That They Be  
Given Gold Medals.

### HEAR MAIL COMPLAINTS

Postoffice Department, However  
Passes These Along to the  
War Department Who is to  
Blame, It Says.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Local draft board members who rendered faithful and arduous service in the administration of the selective draft law may be awarded by formal recognition from the government Senator Simmons has presented to the secretary of war and the senate and house committees on military affairs the suggestion that these men be given military recognition and brevet ranks.

Thousands of draft board officials throughout the country rendered a patriotic service in mustering in more than two million men. The draft board members forsook their business and served and gave their time to the government in the crucial period of the war. Senator Simmons now suggests that something be done to show appreciation of the government.

The suggestion is made that a brevet commission and a gold medal be awarded to those who have been directly charged with the work of creating the great American army that finally struck the decisive blow in the world war.

Senator Simmons has been much impressed with the able and patriotic service rendered by these local boards in the performance of a most difficult and exacting duty. He feels that if they desire military recognition it should by all means be accorded to them if some way can be found to do it that will be consistent with the national interests in these times. He is presenting this view to the war department and to the committees of congress specially charged with military affairs, for consideration.

Replying to a complaint filed through Senator Simmons, the postoffice department "passed the buck" to the war department with respect to the slow delivery of mails from soldiers in France addressed to their relatives in this country. Second Assistant Postmaster General Praeger says the postoffice department handles promptly all mail delivered to it by the military authorities in France, but that the army authorities attend both to the actual delivery and collection of mails among the American expeditionary forces.

Since the war began there has been more or less complaint about poor mail deliveries to and from the soldier forces of the United States.

Various members of congress have criticized the system. At one time the house committee on rules conducted a brief inquiry which was productive of little real information.

In his letter to Senator Simmons the second assistant postmaster general says:

"In reply to your communication concerning the complaint of Mr. R. S. Cronly, of Wilmington, N. C., relative to the non-receipt of mail from members of the American expeditionary forces, I have the honor to inform you that the transportation and delivery of mail to the soldiers in France, as well as the collection of mail for delivery in the United States, are now being effected by the military authorities and not by the postoffice department.

"All mail from the American expeditionary forces in France upon its receipt by the postal service at the port of embarkation in France, is promptly despatched to this country by every available steamer, and upon its receipt in the United States is forwarded without delay for delivery to the addressee.

"In this connection, I may add that three despatches of mail from the American expeditionary forces in France were received in this country on the 12th and 16th instant, that arriving on the 12th comprising approximately 1,000,000 letters and over 14,000 pieces of parcel post; that of the 13th comprising approximately 1,395,000 letters and 89,000 pieces of parcel

## MORTALITY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE HIGH

Nearly Four Thousand Die in  
South Carolina During Past  
Ten Months.

### GREATEST AT AGE 20 TO 30

Startling Figures Shown in  
Report on Vital Statistics  
Made By the State Health  
Officer.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 23.—A brief study of the vital statistics compiled by Dr. James A. Hayne, State health officer, for the ten months ending October 31, 1918, brings to light some startling figures as to the number of deaths in South Carolina among people ranging in age from 20 to 30 years.

In these ten months, 1,141 white males and 1,097 negro males between the ages of 20 and 30 passed away. In the same time and within the same age limits, 486 white females and 1,209 negro females died, making a total of 3,933. When it is realized that it is between the ages of 20 and 30 that the health of the individual is at its best perhaps, the significance of the figures is grasped.

Dr. Hayne, in speaking of the death rate for October alone, said of the total deaths, which amounted to about 1,800, a little more than 28 per cent of the total number occurred among people between the ages of 20 and 30 years.

The influenza, which in many cases developed into pneumonia, reaped a fearful harvest among people in the full tide of their vigor. Dr. Hayne has not yet available the statistics for November, 1918, but it is feared that the death rate for that month among the young and vigorous will be almost as heavy if not heavier than the rate for October, as many cases of pneumonia occurred.

Following is the number of deaths occurring in South Carolina during the ten months ending October 31, 1918:

Age	Whites	Negroes
Under 1 year . . . . .	1,564	3,259
1 to 5 years . . . . .	1,043	2,054
5 to 10 years . . . . .	232	584
10 to 20 . . . . .	548	1,425
20 to 30 . . . . .	1,627	2,306
30 to 40 . . . . .	878	1,513
40 to 50 . . . . .	657	1,127
50 to 60 . . . . .	624	825
60 to 70 . . . . .	857	843
70 to 80 . . . . .	834	635
Over 80 . . . . .	400	558
Unknown age . . . . .	32	79

Total . . . . . 9,296 15,208

The number of deaths among the whites during the year 1917 was 7,256, while the total deaths for the same period among the negroes was 12,150, making a total of 19,406 for whites and negroes, not including the deaths among Indians.

### Births in State.

The total number of births among the whites for nine months, ending September 30, 1918, was 14,793, the males slightly outnumbering the females. The total number of births among the negroes for the same period was 17,527, the males totaling 9,126 and the females numbering 8,402. There were 16 births among the Indians during the same period of time.

### Meeting in January.

Rev. B. F. Carson asks the News to announce that another attempt will be made to hold the associational meeting sometime between the 15th and 25th of January. Program will be announced in this paper when arranged and the date decided upon.

### Box Supper at Dixie.

There will be a box supper at Dixie school house Thursday night, December 26, the proceeds to go for the benefit of the school.

### Checking Up.

Misses Eliza and Louise Wylie are assisting H. P. Ludington at the Red Cross Roll Call headquarters in checking of the returns from the various school districts of the county.

post, and that of the 16th comprising 3,837,000 letters, and 149,000 pieces of parcel post."